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FILED

JUL 17 2012

RICHARD W. WIEKING
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

FRANCISCO R. ROSADO,) No. C 12-2074 LHK (PR)
Petitioner,) ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
v.)
WARDEN RANDY GROUNDS,)
Respondent.)

Petitioner, a state prisoner proceeding *pro se*, seeks a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging a 2011 decision by the California Board of Parole Hearings (“Board”) finding him unsuitable for parole. Petitioner has paid the filing fee. The Court orders Respondent to show cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted.

DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

This Court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus “in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a state court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a); *Rose v. Hedges*, 423 U.S. 19, 21 (1975).

A district court shall “award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show cause why the writ should not be granted, unless it appears from the application that the

1 applicant or person detained is not entitled thereto.” 28 U.S.C. § 2243.

2 B. Petitioner’s Claims

3 As grounds for relief, Petitioner alleges that the denial of his suitability for parole
 4 violated his right against ex post facto, his right to due process, his right to equal protection, and
 5 was a breach of his plea agreement.

6 Petitioner’s claim that the application of Marsy’s Law violated the Ex Post Facto Clause
 7 does not state a claim for relief. Marsy’s Law increased the minimum deferral period between
 8 parole hearings from one to three years, and the maximum deferral period from five to fifteen
 9 years. *Gilman v. Schwarzenegger*, 638 F.3d 1101, 1104 (9th Cir. 2011). Advance hearings can
 10 be held by the Board sua sponte, or at the request of a prisoner, though the inmate is limited to
 11 one such request every three years. *Id.* at 1105. The Ninth Circuit reversed the grant of a
 12 preliminary injunction against enforcement of Marsy’s Law, holding that the plaintiffs were not
 13 likely to prevail on the merits of their claim that Marsy’s Law violates the Ex Post Facto Clause.
 14 *Id.* Gilman’s holding that the plaintiffs there were not likely to prevail on the merits makes clear
 15 that the state courts’ rejections of Petitioner’s Marsy’s Law claim could not have been
 16 unreasonable. Petitioner thus cannot obtain habeas relief on this claim. See 28 U.S.C. §
 17 2254(d).

18 Likewise, Petitioner’s claim that the denial of parole violated his due process rights
 19 because it was based on improper grounds is without merit. In order to comport with due
 20 process, a prisoner is only entitled to “an opportunity to be heard and [be] provided a statement
 21 of the reasons why” parole was denied. *Swarthout v. Cooke*, 131 S. Ct. 859, 861 (2011) (per
 22 curiam); see *Greenholtz v. Inmates of Neb. Penal and Correctional Complex*, 442 U.S. 1, 7
 23 (1979) (“There is no right under the Federal Constitution to be conditionally released before the
 24 expiration of a valid sentence, and the States are under no duty to offer parole to their
 25 prisoners.”). Moreover, a federal habeas court cannot review sufficiency of the evidence claims
 26 to analyze whether “some evidence” supports the Board’s decision to deny parole. See *Cooke*,
 27 131 S. Ct. at 861. “Because the only federal right at issue is procedural, the relevant inquiry is
 28 what process [Petitioner] received, not whether the state decided the case correctly.” *Id.* at 863.

1 Regardless of which particular factors were considered or relied upon by the Board, Petitioner
 2 was provided an opportunity to rebut their validity, and given an explanation of the Board's
 3 ultimate decision. Those were the only due process rights to which he was entitled.

4 Accordingly, Petitioner's due process and ex post facto claims are dismissed. Liberally
 5 construed, Petitioner's remaining allegations that the denial of parole violated his right to equal
 6 protection, and violated his plea agreement are sufficient to warrant a response.

7 **CONCLUSION**

8 1. The Clerk shall serve by mail a copy of this order and the petition (docket nos. 1,
 9 2) and all attachments thereto upon the Respondent and the Respondent's attorney, the Attorney
 10 General of the State of California. The Clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on Petitioner.

11 2. Respondent shall file with the Court and serve on Petitioner, within **ninety days**
 12 of the date this order is filed, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the Rules
 13 Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not be
 14 granted. Respondent shall file with the answer and serve on Petitioner a copy of all portions of
 15 the underlying state criminal record that have been transcribed previously and that are relevant to
 16 a determination of the issues presented by the petition.

17 If Petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a traverse with the
 18 Court and serving it on Respondent within **thirty days** of the date the answer is filed.

19 3. Respondent may file a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds in lieu of an
 20 answer, as set forth in the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section
 21 2254 Cases within **ninety days** of the date this order is filed. If Respondent files such a motion,
 22 Petitioner shall file with the court and serve on Respondent an opposition or statement of non-
 23 opposition within **thirty days** of the date the motion is filed, and Respondent **shall** file with the
 24 court and serve on Petitioner a reply within **fifteen days** of the date any opposition is filed.

25 4. It is Petitioner's responsibility to prosecute this case. Petitioner is reminded that
 26 all communications with the Court must be served on Respondent by mailing a true copy of the
 27 document to Respondent's counsel. Petitioner must keep the court and all parties informed of
 28 any change of address by filing a separate paper captioned "Notice of Change of Address." He

1 must comply with the Court's orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the
2 dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
3 41(b).

4 IT IS SO ORDERED.

5 DATED: 7/17/12

Lucy H. Koh
LUCY H. KOH
United States District Judge

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

FRANCISCO R. ROSADO,

Plaintiff,

v.

RANDY GROUNDS et al,

Defendant.

Case Number: CV12-02074 LHK

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on July 17, 2012, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Francisco R. Rosado D-91225
Soledad State Prison
P.O. Box 689
Soledad, CA 93960-0689

Dated: July 17, 2012

Richard W. Wiking, Clerk
/s/ By: Elizabeth Garcia, Deputy Clerk